

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Van Buren Intermediate School District
Van Buren Technology Center – Distance Learning Lab
490 South Paw Paw Street
Lawrence, Michigan

Special Meeting
May 18, 2004
12:00 noon

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mr. John C. Austin, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone)
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser (via telephone)
Ms. Sue Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Bill Cecil, Michigan Teacher of the Year

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the Special Meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Watkins thanked the hospitality class of Van Buren Intermediate School District for the meal they provided prior to the meeting.

II. WELCOME FROM VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. James Mapes, Superintendent of Van Buren Intermediate School District, welcomed the State Board of Education, Michigan Department of Education and guests to Van Buren Intermediate School District.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

Mr. Turner joined the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS,
DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced the members of the State Board of Education, Department of Education staff, and guests attending the meeting. She thanked the staff of Van Buren Intermediate School District for providing excellent service as hosts to the Board meeting.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

There were no guests who wished to offer comments.

VI. PROPOSED CHANGES TO *EDUCATION YES!* FOR 2004 SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer, presented Proposed Changes to *Education YES!* for 2004 School Report Cards.

Dr. Hughes said at the May 11, 2004, State Board of Education meeting, staff presented proposals for changes to the 2004 *Education YES!* School Report Card. He said the Board raised questions about the manner in which the grade for Achievement Change is calculated, since high-performing schools with high Status grades may be penalized for a slight decline, often brought about by statistical fluctuations due to a different cohort of children being tested. He said the Board also discussed the importance of conveying the message that schools not meeting the targets for Achievement Change are not on course to meet the goal of 100% proficiency in 2013-14, as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. He said the revised proposal establishes a “safe harbor” for schools which experience a slight decline in the percent of proficient students. He said the “safe harbor” would apply to each content area for a school for two consecutive years only.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Revised Proposal for *Education YES!* for 2004 school report cards, as described in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated May 14, 2004.

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE PLANS FOR THE 2005-2006 MEAP IN COMPLIANCE
WITH NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Mr. Watkins said this item was removed from the agenda, but asked Board members to offer input to staff in anticipation of action at the June Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Curtin said she is hearing from many people who are opposed to fall MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) testing, due to the fact that the Grade Level Content Expectations are just being introduced. She said she would like the Board to consider maintaining winter or spring testing for one or two years, until staff and students have had the opportunity to absorb the Grade Level Content Expectations.

Mr. Austin said after speaking with 4th grade teachers at his son's school, they have said they are in favor of fall testing. He also said that he has heard from 7th grade students that the question on the writing test was unclear, and that may have contributed to a decline in scores. Mr. Austin said he has also received questions from teachers asking if parents or students should be the first to see the MEAP scores.

Ms. Carnell said what we want students to know is as critical as when to test. She said the Grade Level Content Expectations should be assessed to the fullest extent possible.

In response to Mrs. Weiser's question, Dr. Hughes said the United States Department of Education has said that testing should include all content taught up until the time of the test, therefore, if testing is done in October, content taught in September should be tested.

Dr. Hughes said Dr. Roeber has established an Advisory Committee for the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability that will be meeting on May 26, 2004.

This was a discussion only and no action was required.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. June 8, 2004
- B. July 13, 2004
- C. August 10, 2004
- D. September 14, 2004

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary